

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for enabling electronic communications by a user having multiple accounts with a single communications service, the method comprising:

displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate ~~a list for each of several accounts of the user with the communications service;~~ multiple lists of identities with whom the user communicates electronically, wherein each individual list including other corresponds to a particular one of the accounts of the user, is separated from the other lists of identities, contiguously lists a set of identities with whom the user communicates using the account to which the list corresponds; corresponds, and is configurable to be arranged into one or more sub-lists of identities, each sub-list including one or more identities from the set of identities;

using the graphical user interface to enable selection, by the user from among the ~~several multiple~~ accounts of the user, of a particular source account from which to initiate an electronic communication;

using the graphical user interface to enable selection, from a list of identities corresponding to the particular source account selected by the user, of a particular identity to whom to send the electronic communication; and

sending the electronic communication to the ~~identity such that~~ particular identity; and identifying the electronic communication is identified sent to the particular identity as ~~being~~ having been sent from the particular source account selected by the user.

16. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 15 wherein the multiple accounts of the user are linked using linking logic based on a remote server.

17. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 16 further comprising offering the user a list of potential accounts to which a link from the multiple accounts may be created, wherein the list of potential accounts is created based on relationships between the potential accounts and the multiple accounts known to exist within the remote server.

18. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 15 further comprising receiving a response to the electronic communication from the particular identity and addressed to the particular source account.

19. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 15 further comprising:
logging on to the single communications service using a first account of the user that differs from the particular source account; and
in response to logging on to the single communications service using the first account of the user, automatically being logged on to the single communications service for the particular source account.

20. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 15 further comprising displaying indications of the several accounts of the user in the single graphical user interface.

21. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 20 further comprising displaying the lists of other identities associated with each of the ~~several~~ multiple accounts of the user in the single graphical user interface.

22. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 15 further comprising, responsive to an addition of a new identity to the list for one of the ~~several~~ multiple accounts of the user, adding the new identity to the lists for the other of the ~~several~~ multiple accounts of the user.

23. (Currently amended) A graphical user interface for facilitating communications by a user having multiple accounts with a single instant messaging service, the graphical user interface comprising one or more window interfaces that are structured and arranged to enable:

a display portion configured to make perceivable two or more instant messaging contact lists, wherein each instant messaging contacts list is associated with one of the multiple accounts of the user, is separated from the other instant messaging contacts lists, and includes one or more a contiguous listing of constituent instant messaging ~~identities and each instant messaging contacts list is associated with one of the multiple accounts of the user;~~ identities; and

one or more visual indicators that are configured to display the current logon status of the instant messaging identities included in the instant messaging contacts lists associated with the multiple accounts of the user; and

wherein at least one instant messaging identity from one of the instant messaging contacts lists associated with a first account of the multiple accounts of the user is selectable as an intended recipient of an instant message from the user, and

wherein at least one instant messaging identity from one of the instant messaging contacts lists associated with a second account of the multiple accounts of the user also is selectable as an intended recipient of an instant message from the user.

24. (Previously Presented) The graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable a display of an instant message addressed to one of the multiple identities of the user.

25. (Previously presented) The graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable sign on of additional of the multiple accounts of the user in response to a sign on of one of the multiple accounts of the user.

26. (Previously presented) The graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable sign on of additional of the multiple accounts of the user in response to a sign on of any one of the multiple accounts of the user.

27. (Previously presented) The graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable the user to designate preferences for each of the multiple accounts of the user.

28. (Previously presented) The graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable the user to designate preferences for one of the multiple accounts of the user, wherein the preferences are applied globally to the other accounts of the user.

29. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 15 wherein displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate ~~a list for each of several accounts of the user~~ multiple lists of identities with whom the user communicates electronically comprises displaying a single graphical user interface that is configured to:

enable the user to select a particular list ~~[[for]]~~ corresponding to a particular one of the ~~several~~ multiple accounts of the user; and

in response to a selection by the user of the particular list ~~[[for]]~~ corresponding to the particular account, display the particular list ~~[[for]]~~ that corresponds to the particular account selected by the user.

30. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 15 wherein displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate ~~a list for each of several accounts of the user~~ multiple lists of identities with whom the user communicates electronically comprises concurrently displaying lists ~~[[for]]~~ corresponding to each of at least two accounts of the user.

31. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for linking multiple accounts of a user for a single communications service, the method comprising:

maintaining, for a user of a single communications service having multiple accounts for use in communicating electronically with other users within the single communications service, a first contacts list corresponding to a first account of the user, the first contacts list including ~~one or more~~ identities associated with ~~one or more~~ other users and enabling the user to communicate with the other users associated with the identities included within the first contacts list;

maintaining, for the user, a second contacts list corresponding to a second account of the user, the second contacts list being separate from the first contacts list, including ~~one or more~~ additional identities associated with ~~one or more~~ additional users, and enabling the user to communicate electronically with the additional users associated with the additional identities included within the second contacts list;

authenticating the first account of the user;

authenticating the second account of the user; and

creating an association between the first account of the user and the second account of the user, wherein the association between the first account of the user and the second account of the user triggers display of a single graphical user interface for both the first account of the user and the second account of the user in response to authentication of both the first account of the user and the second account of the user, the single graphical user interface being configured to ~~accommodate~~ display the first contacts list corresponding to the first account of the user ~~[[and]]~~ separately from the second contacts list corresponding to the second account of the user such ~~[[that]]~~ that:

the first contacts list includes a contiguous listing of the other users and the second contacts list includes a contiguous listing of the additional users, and

the single graphical user interface enables the user to interact with the first contacts list to communicate with the other users using the first account of the user and to interact with the second contacts list to communicate with the additional users using the second account of the user.

32. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 31 wherein:
authenticating the first account includes using a first password to authenticate the first account; and
authenticating the second account includes using a second password to authenticate the second account.

33. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 32 wherein the first password and the second password are the same.

34. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 32 wherein the first password and the second password are different.

35. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 31 wherein:
authenticating the first account includes using a SecureID to authenticate the first account; and
authenticating the second account includes using a SecureID to authenticate the second account.

36. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 31 wherein creating the association between the first account and the second account includes using a one-way link configuration to create the association between the first account and the second account.

37. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 31 wherein creating the association between the first account and the second account includes using a bi-directional-link configuration to create the association between the first account and the second account.

38. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 31 wherein creating the association between the first account and the second account includes using a star-link configuration to create the association between the first account and the second account.

39. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 31 wherein creating the association between the first account and the second account includes using a mesh-link configuration to create the association between the first account and the second account.

40. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 31 wherein the first account is a part of a first domain and the second account is a part of a second domain that differs from the first domain.

41. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 31 further comprising setting preferences for the first account, wherein setting the preferences for the first account also sets the preferences for the second account.

42. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 31 further comprising:
setting first preferences for the first account; and
setting second preferences for the second account.

43. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 31 wherein the first contacts list and the second contacts list include one or more common identities ~~listed on~~ included in both the first contacts list and the second contacts list.

44. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 31 wherein the single communications service enables linking multiple accounts within the single communications service so as to enable presence of one account to be reflected based on a login of another account of the multiple accounts.

45. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for enabling instant messaging by a user who has at least two different instant messaging accounts, the method comprising:

displaying, to a user who has both a first instant messaging account and a second instant messaging account, a single instant messaging graphical user interface that includes:

a first instant messaging contacts list that corresponds to the first instant messaging account of the user and that includes ~~one or more~~ a contiguous listing of instant messaging contacts that the user has selected for inclusion in the first instant messaging contacts list, and

a second instant messaging contacts list that is ~~separate~~ separated from the first instant messaging participant list, that corresponds to the second instant messaging account of the user, and that includes ~~one or more~~ a contiguous listing of instant messaging contacts that the user has selected for inclusion in the second instant messaging contacts list;

receiving an indication of a selection by the user from within the instant messaging graphical user interface of a first instant messaging contact from the first instant messaging contacts list;

in response to receiving the indication of the selection of the first instant messaging contact from the first instant messaging contacts list, enabling the user to compose a first instant message to the first instant messaging contact;

based on the selection of the first instant messaging contact from the first instant messaging contacts list that corresponds to the first instant messaging account of the user,

sending the first instant message composed by the user to the first instant messaging contact in a manner that identifies the first instant message as having been sent from the first instant messaging account;

receiving an indication of a selection by the user from within the instant messaging graphical user interface of a second instant messaging contact from the second instant messaging contacts list;

in response to receiving the indication of the selection of the second instant messaging contact from the second instant messaging contacts list, enabling the user to compose a second instant message to the second instant messaging contact; and

based on the selection of the second instant messaging contact from the second instant messaging contacts list that corresponds to the second instant messaging account of the user, sending the second instant message composed by the user to the second instant messaging contact in a manner that identifies the second instant message as having been sent from the second instant messaging account.

46. (Currently amended) The method of claim 45 further comprising collapsing the first instant messaging contacts list within the instant messaging graphical user interface such that the ~~one or more~~ contiguous listing of the instant messaging contacts that ~~are included~~ the user selected for inclusion in the first instant messaging contacts list ~~[[are]]~~ is not visible within the instant messaging graphical user interface after collapsing the first instant messaging contacts list.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45 further comprising:
enabling the user to add a new instant messaging contact to the first instant messaging contacts list that corresponds to the first instant messaging account of the user;
enabling the user to add the same new contact to the second instant messaging contacts list that corresponds to the second instant messaging account of the user;

enabling the user to select, from within the instant messaging graphical user interface, the new instant messaging contact from the first instant messaging contacts list that corresponds to the first instant messaging account of the user;

based on a selection of the new instant messaging contact from the first instant messaging contacts list that corresponds to the first instant messaging account of the user, enabling the user to send a new instant message to the new instant messaging contact in a manner that identifies the new instant message as having been sent from the first instant messaging account;

enabling the user to select, from within the instant messaging graphical user interface, the new instant messaging contact from the second instant messaging contacts list that corresponds to the second instant messaging account of the user; and

based on a selection of the new instant messaging contact from the second instant messaging contacts list that corresponds to the second instant messaging account of the user, enabling the user to send another new instant message to the new instant messaging contact in a manner that identifies the other new instant message as having been sent from the second instant messaging account.

48. (Currently amended) The method of claim 45 wherein displaying the single instant messaging graphical user interface that includes both the first instant messaging contacts list and the second instant messaging contacts list includes concurrently displaying both the contiguous listing of the instant messaging contacts that the user selected for inclusion in the first instant messaging contacts list and contiguous listing of the instant messaging contacts that the user selected for inclusion in the second instant messaging contacts list within the single instant messaging graphical user interface on a single display screen.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45 wherein the first instant messaging account of the user and the second instant messaging account of the user are maintained by the same instant messaging provider.

50. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein:
the communications service is an instant messaging service;
the ~~several~~ multiple accounts of the user are instant messaging accounts with the instant messaging service;

displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate ~~a list for each of the several accounts of the user~~ multiple lists of identities with whom the user communicates electronically includes displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate a list for each of several instant messaging accounts of the user, each list including other multiple lists of identities with whom the user communicates via instant ~~messaging using the instant messaging account to which the list corresponds;~~ messaging;

using the graphical user interface to enable selection, by the user from among the ~~several~~ multiple accounts of the user, of a particular source account from which to initiate an electronic communication includes using the graphical user interface to enable selection, by the user from among the several instant messaging accounts of the user, of a particular source instant messaging account from which to initiate an instant message;

using the graphical user interface to enable selection, from a list of identities corresponding to the particular source account selected by the user, of ~~[[an]]~~ a particular identity to whom to send the electronic communication includes using the graphical user interface to enable selection, from a list of identities corresponding to the particular source instant messaging account selected by the user, of ~~[[an]]~~ a particular identity to whom to send the instant message;
and

sending the electronic communication to the particular identity such that the electronic communication is identified to the particular identity as being sent from the particular source account selected by the user includes sending the instant message to the particular identity such that the instant message is identified to the particular identity as being sent from the particular source instant messaging account selected by the user.

51. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31 wherein:

the communications service is an instant messaging service;

the first account of the user is a first instant messaging account of the user with the instant messaging service;

the second account of the user is a second instant messaging account of the user with the instant messaging service;

maintaining, for the user a first contacts list corresponding to the first account of the user, includes maintaining, for the user, a first instant messaging contacts list corresponding to the first instant messaging account of the user, the first instant messaging contacts list including one or more instant messaging identities associated with one or more other users and enabling the user to communicate via instant messaging with the other users associated with the instant messaging identities included within the first instant messaging contacts list;

maintaining, for the user, a second contacts list corresponding to the second account of the user, includes maintaining, for the user, a second instant messaging contacts list corresponding to the second instant messaging account of the user, the second instant messaging contacts list being separate from the first instant messaging contacts list, including one or more additional instant messaging identities associated with one or more additional users, and enabling the user to communicate via instant messaging with the additional users associated with the additional instant messaging identities included within the second instant messaging contacts list;

authenticating the first account of the user includes authenticating the first instant messaging account of the user;

authenticating the second account of the user includes authenticating the first instant messaging account of the user;

creating an association between the first account of the user and the second account of the user includes creating an association between the first instant messaging account of the user and the second instant messaging account of the user; and

the association between the first instant messaging account of the user and the second instant messaging account of the user triggers display of a single graphical user interface for both the first instant messaging account of the user and the second instant messaging account of the

user in response to authentication of both the first instant messaging account of the user and the second instant messaging account of the user, the single graphical user interface being configured to ~~accommodate~~ display the first instant messaging contacts list corresponding to the first instant messaging account of the user [[and]] separately from the second instant messaging contacts list corresponding to the second instant messaging account of the user such [[that]] that:

the first instant messaging contacts list includes a contiguous listing of the other users and the second contacts list includes a contiguous listing of the additional users, and

the single graphical user interface enables the user to interact with the first instant messaging contacts list to communicate with the other users via instant messaging using the first instant messaging account of the user and to interact with the second instant messaging contacts list to communicate with the additional users via instant messaging using the second instant messaging account of the user.

52. (New) A computer-implemented method comprising:
displaying a single graphical user interface that includes:

a first group label that corresponds to a first electronic messaging account of a user,

a second group label that corresponds to a second electronic messaging account of the user,

a first contiguous listing of multiple messaging contacts with whom the user communicates using the first electronic messaging account of the user, the first contiguous listing being oriented in a position corresponding to the first group label and configured to reflect on-line presence information for at least some of the messaging contacts with whom the user communicates using the first electronic messaging account of the user,

a second contiguous listing of multiple messaging contacts with whom the user communicates using the second electronic messaging account of the user, the second contiguous listing being separated from the first contiguous listing of messaging contacts

with whom the user communicates using the first electronic messaging account of the user, oriented in a position corresponding to the second group label, and configured to reflect on-line presence information for at least some of the messaging contacts with whom the user communicates using the second electronic messaging account of the user, wherein:

the first group label is selectable to inspire visual display or obfuscation of the first contiguous listing of messaging contacts with whom the user communicates using the first electronic messaging account of the user, and

the second group label is selectable to inspire visual display or obfuscation of the second contiguous listing of messaging contacts with whom the user communicates using the second electronic messaging account of the user;

receiving an indication of a selection by the user of a first messaging contact from the first contiguous listing of messaging contacts with whom the user communicates using the first electronic messaging account of the user;

in response to receiving the indication of the selection by the user of the first messaging contact, enabling the user to compose and send to the first messaging contact an electronic message that is identified as originating from the first electronic messaging account of the user;

receiving an indication of a selection by the user of a second messaging contact from the second contiguous listing of messaging contacts with whom the user communicates using the second electronic messaging account of the user; and

in response to receiving the indication of the selection by the user of the second messaging contact, enabling the user to compose and send to the second messaging contact an electronic message that is identified as originating from the second electronic messaging account of the user.

53. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein displaying a single graphical user interface that includes a first contiguous listing of messaging contacts with whom the user communicates using the first electronic messaging account of the user and a second contiguous listing of

multiple messaging contacts with whom the user communicates using the second electronic messaging account of the user includes displaying a single graphical user interface that includes:

- a first contiguous listing of messaging contacts that is arranged into multiple contiguous sub-listings of messaging contacts with whom the user communicates using the first electronic messaging account of the user, each of which is associated with a different identifiable label; and

- a second contiguous listing of messaging contacts that is arranged into multiple contiguous sub-listings of messaging contacts with whom the user communicates using the second electronic messaging account of the user, each of which is associated with a different identifiable label.